

Today, Poland has regained its sovereignty and fashioned a sturdy representative democracy. For Americans and Poles alike, Casimir Pulaski's sacrifice for independence remains a model of courage and commitment that can stir us to reach new heights of democratic justice and liberty.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Friday, October 11, 1996, as General Pulaski Memorial Day. I encourage Americans everywhere to commemorate this occasion with appropriate ceremonies and activities paying tribute to Casimir Pulaski and honoring all those who carry on his mission.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 15, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 11, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 16.

Statement on Signing the National Securities Markets Improvement Act of 1996

October 11, 1996

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 3005, the "National Securities Markets Improvement Act of 1996." This legislation represents the most significant overhaul of the securities regulatory structure in decades. Without compromising investor protection, H.R. 3005 will enhance capital formation and the competitiveness of the American economy by eliminating regulatory overlap between the States and the Federal Government, significantly rationalizing and simplifying the way mutual funds and corporate securities are regulated, reducing Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration

fees, and stabilizing the SEC funding structure over a 10-year period.

This bill achieves the difficult task of improving the efficiency of the financial markets without compromising investor protections. Lower registration fees will reduce the cost of capital formation in the United States. Changes to margin requirements should lower funding costs for broker-dealers, benefiting investors without reducing the systemic protections of the margin requirements. This legislation will more efficiently divide responsibility for regulation between the Federal and State governments. The SEC will be charged with responsibility for activities in the national markets, such as regulation of securities listed on the national exchanges and mutual funds, as well as large investment advisors. States will have responsibility for smaller issues and investment advisors with smaller portfolios, while retaining their authority to take enforcement actions against fraudulent conduct in all situations.

The legislation gives the SEC new broad general exemptive authority under both the Securities Act and the Exchange Act, which should allow the Commission to deal more quickly and effectively with the facts and circumstances of individual situations. At the same time, it strengthens the SEC's hand in addressing fund names that use words such as "government," "guaranteed," or "insured," which can cause investors to conclude, incorrectly, that their investments are guaranteed by State or Federal authorities.

This legislation will save hundreds of millions of dollars for American businesses. Corporations will benefit from the reduction in SEC fees. Mutual funds, which are sold nationally, will be regulated nationally. Broker-dealers will benefit from no longer being subject to dozens of differing State net capital and books and records requirements. The SEC's funding will be more stable and predictable than it has been in recent years. These changes will all enhance our national capital markets, helping to create and nurture new businesses and new jobs, and enhancing the returns of both businesses and investors.

I am pleased to sign this bill into law. I thank all the participants—from the Congress, from Federal and State regulatory

agencies, from the affected industries—for the hard work that culminated in enactment of this important piece of legislation.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 11, 1996.

NOTE: H.R. 3005, approved October 11, was assigned Public Law No. 104–290.

**Statement on Signing the
Intelligence Authorization Act for
Fiscal Year 1997**

October 11, 1996

Today I am signing into law H.R. 3259, the “Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997.” The Act authorizes appropriations for the intelligence and intelligence related activities of the United States during fiscal year 1997.

This legislation is the result of the hard work of many people in the Administration and in the Congress who are dedicated to both a strong national intelligence capability and effective congressional oversight. Through their efforts, the Intelligence Community will be able to continue critical intelligence activities furthering U.S. national security interests.

I am pleased that this legislation largely reflects my Budget request. I commend the conferees for funding the Environmental Intelligence and Applications Program and the automatic declassification reviews under section 3.4 of Executive Order 12958. This legislation will also enhance Intelligence Community support for U.S. law enforcement agencies by clarifying existing authorities that permit elements of the Intelligence Community to collect information on non-U.S. persons abroad at the request of U.S. law enforcement agencies.

Although I am signing this Act, I have concerns about the provisions in it that purport to direct the creation of two new National Security Council (NSC) committees—a Committee on Foreign Intelligence and a Committee on Transnational Threats. Such efforts to dictate the President’s policy process unduly intrude upon Executive preroga-

tives and responsibilities. I would note that under my Executive authority, I have already asked the NSC to examine these issues.

Moreover, I have already signed into law provisions to establish a Committee on Nonproliferation and will appoint a National Coordinator for Nonproliferation Matters, one of whose duties will be to make recommendations to me concerning the structure and organization of the Federal Government in this area.

Additionally, the provision requiring the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) to concur or be consulted before the appointment of certain intelligence officials is constitutionally questionable in two areas: regarding limitations on the President’s ability to receive the advice of cabinet officers; and regarding circumscription of the President’s appointment authority. The Administration has supported the concept of obtaining the DCI’s concurrence or consultation prior to the appointment of certain other intelligence officials as specified in both H.R. 3259 and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997 (Public Law 104–201). However, I will do so through an Executive order to avoid such constitutional concerns.

Finally, the DCI has communicated to me his strong opposition to provisions in the Act that would establish three new Assistant Directors of Central Intelligence, each requiring Senate confirmation. I share his concerns that these provisions will add another layer of positions requiring Senate confirmation without a substantial corresponding gain in the DCI’s authority or ability to manage the Intelligence Community. I understand that the DCI intends to seek repeal or significant modification of these provisions in the 105th Congress. I will support such efforts.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 11, 1996.

NOTE: H.R. 3259, approved October 11, was assigned Public Law No. 104–293.